

Our Mission...

"To improve the quality of life in Lake County by providing coordination and funding for prevention and intervention programs for children, youth and families through collaborative community-based services."

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For more information or to share ideas and experiences with the Children's Services Council, contact the Lake County Children & Elder Services office at:

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The Lake County Children's Services Council (CSC) is a 15-member advisory Board to the Lake County Board of County Commissioners. The CSC advises the Board of County Commissioners about children's issues in the County; assists with strategic planning for Children and Family Services; and provides a forum to exchange ideas and promote partnerships among service providers and citizens. The commission also makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on the status of children and families in Lake County and about the use of County grant funding following the request for proposal evaluation and review process.

Accomplishing several long-range plans that benefit the children of Lake County is at the forefront for the Children's Services Council (CSC). By working toward a common goal, the CSC strives to assure that all Lake County children: grow up in a healthy, happy and stable home; enter school ready to learn; attain the highest high school graduation rate in the state; and keep youth crime, violence and teen pregnancy at the lowest rate in the state.

The CSC can only accomplish these long-range goals by working together with the community. Key partners of the Commission are:

- *Parents, teachers and Lake County Schools*
- *Business leaders and service providers*
- *Community not-for-profit and faith-based groups*
- *Libraries and recreation programs*
- *Law enforcement and the judicial system*
- *Other governmental committees focusing on the health and welfare of children*
- *Florida Department of Children and Families*
- *Retirees, volunteers and all Lake County citizens*

The Lake County Children's Services Council (CSC) has identified several goals that need to be addressed to accomplish the long-range plans of the Council.

Goal 1: Improve and encourage maternal, child and adolescent wellness and protection. This goal is being attained by supporting a host of different initiatives, such as:

- Expanding existing services to fill gaps in community needs. Examples are increasing subsidized childcare available for families and strengthening the partnership between parents, childcare and the school system to promote school readiness.
- Creating a greater awareness about community services by breaking the cycle of abuse, poverty and neglect by strengthening families through educational programs, and parenting skills development.
- Working with the business community to develop family-friendly procedures in the workplace.

Goal 2: Provide active support and technical assistance to community resources. This goal recognizes the need of building relationships and identifying resources, such as:

- Assisting with the development of collaborative partnerships between community organizations, faith-based and municipal recreation programs.
- Building upon positive volunteer efforts in projects that benefit children.
- Assisting programs with funding and address transportation issues affecting service delivery.

Goal 3: Provide public awareness about the issues facing children and families in Lake County. This goal recognizes the need to expand the knowledge about children's issues through efforts such as:

- Increasing community knowledge about beneficial children's program and events.
- Develop program and events to increase community awareness of issues impacting the quality of life for Lake County children and families.

